

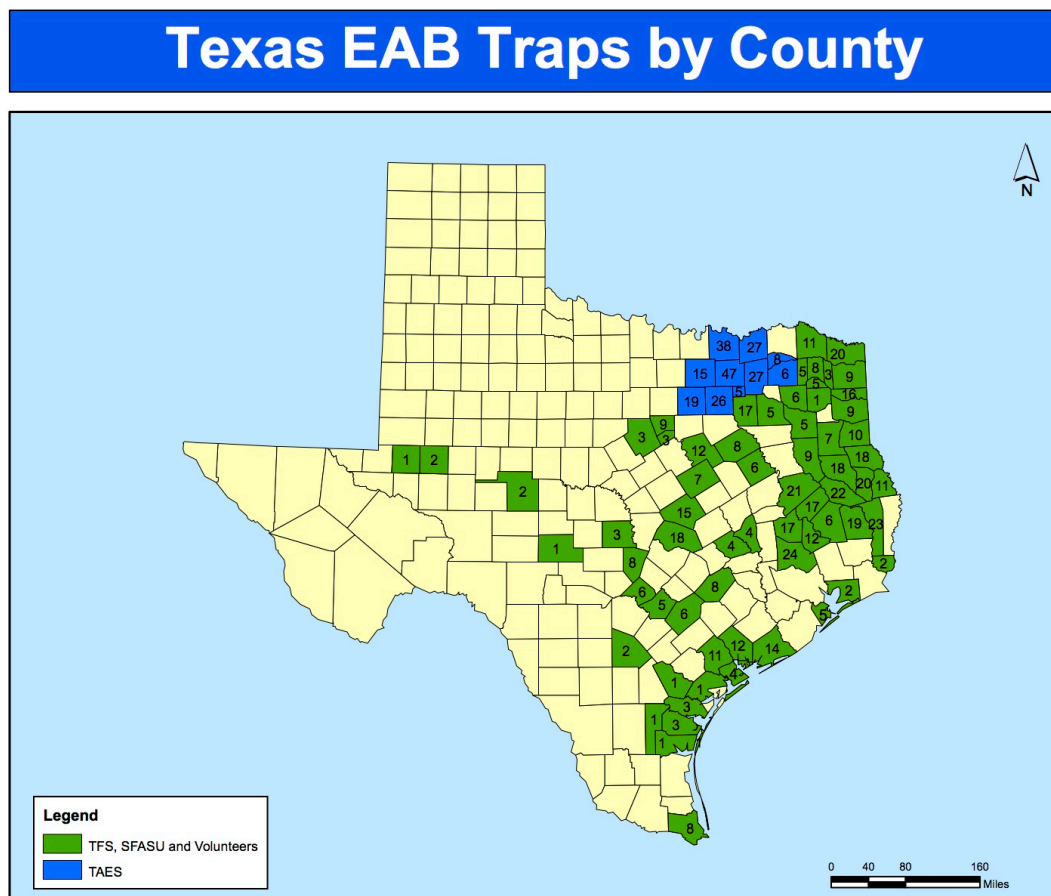
Help Find Homes for Emerald Ash Borer Traps

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The emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, is an exotic wood-boring beetle from Asia that was first discovered attacking and killing ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) in Michigan in 2002. Since then, this invasive pest has spread to at least fifteen states and Canada where it is killing millions of ash trees. To determine if EAB is in Texas, Texas AgriLife Extension (TAES) has installed and monitored some 200 traps per year since 2008, located in high risk areas (public parks and campgrounds, recreation areas, etc.).

In 2012, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) plans to greatly expand the EAB detection survey. For 2012, APHIS has solicited assistance from the Texas Forest Service (TFS), Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (TAES), Stephen F. Austin State University College of Forestry and Agriculture, and several volunteer citizen scientist groups. These agencies and volunteers have agreed to install some 700 survey traps in 71 Texas counties in 2012 in an attempt to determine if this beetle is present (see map).



Resembling a three-paneled box kite, the large, purple traps (24 x 14 inches), coated with non-toxic sticky material, will be baited with fragrant chemicals then placed in or near ash trees in state and federal parks, campgrounds, and on private lands, with the landowner's permission.

The traps will be hung six to ten feet above the ground and will display a "Do Not Disturb" sign. Any suspicious-looking beetles that resemble emerald ash borers will be collected for review by experts.

The most challenging task now is to identify potential field locations for traps in targeted counties. The requirement is that each location must have one or more ash trees present and be accessible to field crews. If you know of a landowner with ash trees willing to host an EAB trap within one of the 71 counties highlighted in green on the map, contact **Jim Houser**, Regional Forest Health Coordinator with Texas Forest Service in Austin at jhouser@tfs.tamu.edu. If the property is located in East Texas, contact Joe Pase, Regional Forest Health Specialist in Lufkin at jpase@tfs.tamu.edu. In counties north of Dallas (those highlighted in blue on the map), contact Charles Helpert with TAES at c-helpert@tamu.edu. If the



location is suitable, TFS or TAES personnel and/or volunteers will set up the large three-panel sticky trap in March and monitor it for EAB in June and August, removing the trap at the end of the season. No pesticides are used on the traps and there should be no significant risks to landowners.

The option to adopt a trap will end on March 15, 2012. With your help, we can keep EAB out of Texas or detect infestations in early stages of development. The state's ash resource is at stake.



Adult emerald ash borer (1/2-inch long)